Mr. Baron *Lovell's*

CHARGE

TO THE

GRAND JURY

FOR THE

County of *Devon*,

The 5*th* of *April*, 1710.

At the Caſtle of *EXON.*

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Mr. Baron LOVELL's *Charge to the Grand Jury for the County of* Devon, *&c.*

Gentlemen of the Grand Inqueſt;

HER Majeſty having been pleaſed to appoint us Judges for this Circuit, to put the Laws of this Nation in Execution, and being ready to proceed thereon, I cannot omit laying before you the Excellency of our Laws, compared with thoſe Abroad. Laws, which do not authorize, but check and oppoſe Sword, Fire, Perſecution, Oppreſſion, and Inquiſition. They preſerve every Man's Liberty and Property, and are made for the Support of the good Government, as eſtabliſh'd and ſettled by them. Her Majeſty knowing that the beſt Foundation is in Religion, builds on that Rock, and I can aſſure you,

has taken an unalterable Reſolution, to prefer none to any Dignities in Church or State (which are in her Donation) but ſuch as are Men of conſpicuous Virtue, Piety, Morality, and Temper.

A Wild Fire is running about, to the great Diſturbance of the Peace. And whence comes it? From Prieſts and Jeſuits.

You have in this City an inflamed Preacher, who after having been toſs'd from Place to Place, at laſt vents his turbulent Doctrine here. Such doth not become the Pulpit, and nothing elſe is to be done there, but to preach up Vertue and Piety, as we do now earneſtly recommend to you from this Place, and charge you to do it, as you muſt anſwer it before God and Man.

You have a Dioceſan (whom I do not perſonally know, but am inform'd credibly is) a Man of Vertue, Piety, and Temper: All under him ſhould follow his Example. They cannot adorn themſelves better, than with ſuch Qualities: And I hope he will countenance none (I am ſure Her Majeſty will not) but Men of thoſe Principles.

I have been preſent at the great Trial of a turbulent and inflamed Preacher in *London*, who on a Day of rejoicing, turned

turned the Solemnity of it into Railing againſt the Government, and the Parliament, crying out, the Danger of the Church, contrary to Her Majeſty's Word, and the Votes of Both Houſes of Parliament. And then caus'd a Book to be printed, which was diſperſed abroad. The Text was good, but the Diſcourſe had little of Piety, but much of venemous Aſperſions, and virulent Reflections. It was high time to put a ſtop to ſuch Inflammation; which could not be done, but by the Houſe of Commons taking notice thereof; and the Man was tried before the higheſt Court of Judicature (do not miſtake me; by the Man, I underſtand his Principles) where all manner of Liberty of Speech was allow'd, and a moderate Puniſhment put on the Perſon, who at beſt is but an inconſiderable Fellow. Upon this I find the Country in a Ferment: And for what? Men may differ in Opinions; but muſt this create Diſunion? No more Reaſon can be given for it, than for differing about our Shapes. You ought to live in Peace for your own ſake, and for Her Majeſty's ſake (who is highly affronted by theſe Diſturbances, whilſt ſhe has nothing more at Heart, than the Welfare and Quiet of her People) and alſo

alſo for the Honour of your Religion.

I would ask of all thoſe, that cry up the Doctrine of Paſſive Obedience what they mean; or what Neceſſity there is for trumping up that damnable Doctrine?

Many may ſay I am hot; I am fervent as the Subject on which I am requires. I doubt not, but ſome may ſtill remember the diſmal Conſequences of it about 60 Years ago and upwards. Or at leaſt moſt of you have heard the deplorable Calamities it drew upon this Nation.

Whatever Cloak the Aſſertors of the Dangers of the Church may put upon their Expreſſions, and whatever Pretenſions they may make of having taken the Oaths, and ſworn Allegiance; I ſay they are the Men that would overturn our excellent Laws: For that I find the greateſt part of them, either never go to Church, or it's much if ever they partake of Her Ordinances. If theſe Men were obliged to ſpeak plain, it might ſoon appear, that they aim at ſupplanting Her Majeſty, and ſetting up a Pretender (I muſt expreſs my ſelf in plain Terms) or at leaſt preventing the Succeſſion of the Crown, as by Law eſtabliſhed.

What

What mean theſe tumultuous Meetings (of which I have been informed) breaking of Windows, and inſulting of Perſons? Theſe are Breaches of the Publick Peace. I muſt tell you, Gentlemen, that as you are the Inquiſitors of this County, you ought to preſent all ſuch, who are Actors in it, and whoever incourages or countenances the Mob (I uſe the Word unwillingly; but muſt for Diſtinction ſake) in ſuch Actions. It's a Riot and Rout by the Law. It's your Duty to preſent them. I underſtand ſome Magiſtrates and Juſtices have endeavour'd to prevent and ſuppreſs ſuch Meetings, and I hope many more will. I am certain, none but ſuch can expect Her Majeſty's Favour.

I muſt on this Occaſion tell you, that formerly ſome miſtaken zealous Men for pulling down Bawdy-Houſes behind *Lincolns-Inn Fields*, were proſecuted for High Treaſon, and ſome of them hanged, drawn and quarter'd.

At the Judges ſetting out from *London* for their Circuits, they had a particular Charge of Her Majeſty to recommend Peace to you, and to obſerve the Tranſactions in the Country; and I doubt not but on return of all the Judges to Court, you ſhall hear further about that Matter.

I must again recommend to you, to follow your Bishop's Example, who is a Man of Temper; preach up Piety and live in Unity. Bind your selves together with that Bond, and let us not frustrate Her Majesty's Endeavours, to settle a lasting Peace Abroad, by creating a War at Home.

Then proceeded on the common Matters of the Law; and concluded,

Once more I earnestly desire, and charge you to live in and promote Peace amongst your selves; if you have any Regard to the Welfare of the Church and State, and the Honour of Her Majesty; and if you expect that your late Posterity shall bless your Memory, after you have long enjoy'd the agreeable Fruits of a peaceable Temper.

FINIS.